CENWS-PM-PL-ER

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**
Albeni Cove Bank Stabilization Project
Oldtown, Bonner County, Idaho

**1. Background**. The Corps is proposing the following project under the Flood Control Act of 17 May 1950 (Public Law 516, 81st Congress, 2nd Session) substantially in accordance with Senate Document 9, 81st Congress, 1st Session, which authorized the construction and operation of Albeni Falls, a multi-purpose project. Funds are allocated each year via Congress for operation and maintenance of the Albeni Falls Dam.

Operation of the Albeni Falls Dam project is eroding certain reaches of shoreline around Pend Oreille River and Lake. During full pool elevation of the reservoir, erosion from wave action, partly from wind but primarily caused by boats, has caused incremental bank failure along several hundred feet of shoreline at the Corps of Engineers' Albeni Cove Recreation Area, causing some tree loss and undercutting, and directly affecting two campsites, a swimming beach, and a wetland. The compact clay sediments at the site are subjected to inundation during full pool elevation of the reservoir and are stricken energetically by large waves caused by high winds or boat traffic during that period. Water pressure holds the soil in place at high pool; but when the pool is drawn down for the winter, the temporarily stabilized soils erode or slough off onto the beach vacated by the receding shoreline, especially when saturated by heavy fall precipitation.

The purpose of the project is to stem further erosion and loss of standing trees and other vegetation along 1,600 feet of shoreline at the Albeni Cove Recreation Area to prevent erosion of a remaining cultural site and to prevent loss or relocation of existing facilities.

**2. Proposed Action**. The proposed action is to build a riprap structure along approximately 1,600 feet of shoreline on the left bank of the Pend Oreille River to stabilize the bank and prevent further erosion at the Albeni Cove Recreational area. Access for the project will be partly by existing park roads and partially over dewatered river substrate, primarily sand and clay, with some gravel. The bank would be protected by placing rock along the affected areas of shoreline between elevations 2055 and 2065 (in some cases the toe would be higher) and would be inserted into bank undercuts a short distance where possible.

Work is planned to coincide with the lower operating limit (elevation 2051 or 2055) of Albeni Falls Dam from December 2008 to January 2009. Construction will be conducted from land on the swimming spit where no vegetation impedes access. Placement along the vegetated bank to the east of the swimming cove would be from the waterward side on the dewatered substrate. This area contains various species of deciduous and coniferous trees with thick undergrowth, and bald eagles have been noted in some of the emergent trees in this area. Bank stabilization material will consist of class III riprap, spalls (rock chips), 3-inch minus crushed stone, and granular fill. Approximately 2,800 cubic yards of class III

riprap and 1,200 cubic yards of 3-inch minus crushed stone will be used. Filter fabric will be placed along the shoreline next to the bank to minimize the amount of fine sediment that enters the lake. All trees that have fallen into the river will be removed and coniferous trees which are resistant to breakdown will be placed into the bank stabilization project to provide fish habitat. Native plantings would be placed for riparian shade and cover. No permanent maintenance road will be constructed as part of the proposed action.

**3. Summary of Impacts and Compliance.** Impacts of the proposed work will be minor and temporary. This project will fully comply with the Endangered Species Act; a biological evaluation was prepared as part of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with a determination of "not likely to adversely affect" bull trout. The USFWS concurred with this finding. This project will also fully comply with Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps has prepared a 404(b)(1) analysis and has received a waiver from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality under Section 401. The project will fully comply with the National Historic Preservation Act as shown by a letter sent to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and their concurrence with Corps' findings. Public review opportunity has been afforded for the EA and the 404(b)(1) analysis; no comments were received.

**4. Finding.** Based on the attached environmental documentation, coordination, and analysis conducted by the Corps environmental staff, I have determined that the proposed action will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, therefore, does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

AUGUST 2006
Date

Anthony O. Wright
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander